



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Planning Division

**Memorandum**

**MEETING DATE:** April 29, 2020

**TO:** Historic Landmarks Commission

**FROM:** Nicole Hernandez, City Urban Historian

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendments to the Historic Resources Ordinance  
Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 30.157.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide a brief overview of the information to be presented to the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) on April 29, 2020. The HLC meeting will serve as a “kick-off” to the public review period of the Draft Historic Resources Ordinance. The Commission will receive a Staff presentation summarizing the proposed key changes to the current Historic Resources Ordinance (SBMC 22.22). The Draft Ordinance (SBMC 30.157) will become available for public review beginning April 30, 2020. A subsequent HLC Public Hearing will be scheduled before the HLC to review and discuss the proposed ordinance amendments in more detail.

**Background**

In 2012, the City adopted the Historic Resources Element (HRE) of the General Plan intended to promote historic preservation through identification, designation, and protection of historic resources with the implementation of four goals, including *Protection and Enhancement of Historic Resources, Increased Awareness and Appreciation, Government Cooperation, and Neighborhood Historic Preservation*. The HRE includes 47 “possible implementation actions to be considered” organized under 10 policies. Several implementation actions direct and/or support updating the Historic Resources Ordinance to ensure up-to-date provisions/procedures and secure permanent protection of historic resources. The proposed amendments to the Historic Resources Ordinance seek to implement these objectives.

**Key Amendments to the Historic Resources Ordinance**

The Historic Resources Ordinance provides the authority to protect and preserve the City’s historic resources consistent with the goals and policies of the City’s HRE. The proposed Historic Resources Ordinance (SBMC Chapter 30.157) ensures the continued protection, preservation, and enhancement of historical, architectural, and archaeological resources.

The following list briefly summarizes the key amendments proposed to the current Historic Resources Ordinance (SBMC 22.22):

- Removes the Historic Resources Ordinance (Chapter 22.22) from Title 22 and incorporates into Title 30 (Chapter 30.157)
- Includes a process to initiate, nominate, and designate Historic Districts
- Includes a new section on enforcement and penalties
- Streamlines the process to designate and list historic resources
- Establishes a Certificate of Appropriateness process to review and approve minor alterations administratively
- Updates and incorporates definitions and language consistent with State and National Historic Preservation standards
- Creates a consistent format for Findings for each type of historic resource
- Eliminates redundant sections already included in Title 30
- Removes outdated ordinance provisions considered unnecessary

### **Public Review**

Beginning on April 30, 2020, the draft Historic Resources Ordinance (SBMC Chapter 30.157) will be available for public review and posted on the City's website at: [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/HROAmendments](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/HROAmendments)

A Public Hearing to review and discuss the proposed Historic Resources Ordinance amendments in more detail will be scheduled at a later date. The Planning Commission, the City Council Ordinance Committee, and the City Council will also review the document at public meetings prior to final adoption.